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The FUNman, Dept. P-109 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

THE BLUE BEETLE

Volume 1, Number 19

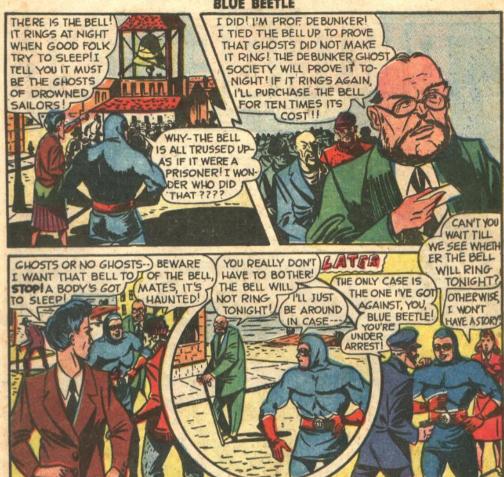
April, 1955

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THEY- THEY'VE DISAPPEARED! AND THE BELL-THE BELL'S STILL TOLLING!!!



FRIGHT AT BLUE BEETLE'S

SIGN-BUT LET'S SEE
IF YOU CAN IGNORE
HIS SWINGING
FISTS! WHA-?



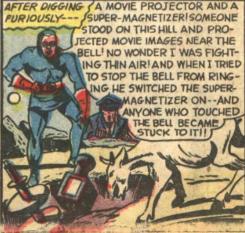
























IN THE LATE NINETIES SAN FRANCISCO'S FAMOUS CHINATIONIN SEETHED WITH INTRIGUE.... ONE DAY I'M CASEY, REPORTER, WAS ROAMING THE SECTION IN SEARCH OF A STORY WHEN SUDDENLY...























THE MILK FUND ... BUT ER ... LET'S GO DOWN FILES! THIS STREET.







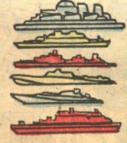


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I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MY EYES IN THAT PLANE! IT WAS FLASHES OF RADIOACTIVITY REPLECTED ON THE DIRECT SUN! SOMEONE IS PLAYING AROUND WITH THAT STUFF... AND I KNOW WHO! IT CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF RED



WE'D BETTER INVESTIGATE A LITTLE CLOSER, JOAN! THAT'S A PRETTY BIG. ACCUSATION!



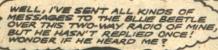
MR. HARRISON? THIS WHAT! YOU LOOSE AGAIN RESERVE A WHAT HAPPENED! COLUMN FOR WHERE ARE YOU? ME IN THE NEXT .. HEY ... EDITION. SHE HUNG

























## "FIGHT FOR LIFE"

The City Room was in a sweat. Everyone walked as if on egg shells. The Old Man was having another of his famous brainstorms. No one knew where the axe would fall. I could see him waving his hands in the air, barking at Nella, his excitable secretary who seemed always on the verge of hysteria. She ran out of his office and headed straight for me. I hunched lower in my seat and made with the typewriter.

Nella tapped me on the shoulder. "There's

no paper in your typewriter," she said.

"I must've burned it up. I was working on such a hot story." I said brightly.

"Quit stalling," she said. "The Old Man

wants you-and you're it!"

The City Room made clucking noises to the cadence of my steps as I walked into the Old Man's office. I felt as if I were doing the last mile.

"C'mere, Mr. Ex-War Correspondent!"

The Old Man beckoned.

"Goodby, Boss," I started to retreat. "It's been nice knowing your O.K. on my expense accounts."

"Sit down, Itchy Foot!" he yelled.

I stopped. "Aren't you firing me?" I asked. "Because I called you 'Ex-War Correspondent'? That was just to remind you that you're still a parasite on the payroll drawing a salary for no good reason-yet."

When the Old Man said "yet" I knew more

was coming, so I sat down.

"Listen, Dan," he said, sitting on the corner of the desk, so he could stab me with his finger for emphasis. "The war is over . . . at least the fighting is over. And people are forgetting. Forgetting about the war. Forgetting why and how it was won. It's our business to remind 'em!"

I started to leave, but he jabbed me, and I stayed put. "What do you want me to do?"

I said. "Start another war?"

"You've been all over the world. On all the fronts. With all kinds of outfits. I want you to write a series of stories depicting brave men doing brave deeds."

"They were all brave."

"Some were braver than others."

"Those were the ones who never came back."

The Old Man jabbed me again. "I want the real stuff from you, Dan. Eve-witness stories of the men that won this war. I'll run it under a two column head on the front page. How's that?"

"On one condition."

"Name it."

"What I say goes."

"Agreed." The Old Man turned around. "Nella-take this down! Put in the punctuation later. Okay, Dan, start talking!"

"One of the bravest men I ever saw." I began, "wasn't even a soldier. That is, he didn't have a uniform. His name was Mr. Binkie. He was a citizen of London. He was very sorry about the trouble he was causing. trouble arising from the fact that Mr. Binkie refused to die!

"I was doing a tour of English hospitals at the time, and I was visiting the London Hospital in Whitechapel. One of the nurses, a sweet kid named Nancy with deep, misty eyes, took mc aside as I was about to leave and whispered: 'You're one of those writerchaps, aren't you?"

"When I said Yes. She continued:

"Then you can't . . . you mustn't . . .

go without seeing Mr. Binkie!'

"I followed her up to the top floor. Mr. Binkie was in a front room; alone. The room was neat and clean and white-just like a hospital in peaceful America. But this was London during the Blitz. And the sun streamed in through a big jagged hole in the ceiling a grim reminder of the Luftwaffe's latest visit.

"'We can't move him,' Nurse Nancy said apologetically, indicating Mr. Binkie.

"I didn't know for sure whether Mr. Binkie was alive until I saw his lips just barely move, and heard a whisper float out, one word . . : one letter at a time it seemed. Then

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT, OF AUGUST 24, 1918, Ab AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1923, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Cole, Special 232) 1923, AND JULY 2, 1946 (States 20, 1946) 1930 (States

Edward Levy, Woodbridge, Connectious

John Santangelo, Derby, Connectious

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owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds
mortgages, or other securities are (if there are none, so \$1266.)

None.

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of a bona fide owner.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28th day of Sept., 1994.

(SEAL) Sydney Shindell (Nider Public)

(My commission expires April 1, 1987)

he stopped altogether. And I sat there watching him, while the nurse told me his story:

"Mr. Binkie, rejected for Military Service, was just an ordinary little man. In ordinary times, he would have done nothing more exciting than take his family to Seaside—the English Coney Island. But this was war, and Mr. Binkie with his high, white collar and celluloid cuffs contributed his services as a member of a Civilian Demolition Squad.

"One day, he had volunteered to help remove a time bomb which was wedged against the door to an Anderson shelter. The sole occupants of the shelter were a six year old girl and her Scottie pup. Since this particular bomb required at least seven men to remove it carefully enough to prevent a contact explosion, Mr. Binkie and his squad, seven alto-

gether, volunteered.

"'Let's not keep the young lady waiting on such a fine day,' Mr. Binkie said. The tension was relieved for a moment. The men moved cautiously to remove the bomb's detonator, after they had first dug carefully around the bomb and shifted it gingerly to one side. Mr. Binkie entered the shelter and found the little girl, silent and numb with fear, clutching the little Scottie to her.

"'Let's take the little doggie for a walk,' smiled Mr. Binkie, steering the little girl outside where she stood in evident relief.

"One of the men in the squad straightened up from the bomb as Binkie came out: "This is a new one from Jerry. We can't detach

the bloomin' fuse!'

"Mr. Binkie patted the little girl on the head and said: 'You must run to your Mama now; all is safe. There she is—behind the ropes, waiting for you.' He watched her until she had run to safety. Then he and the squad maneuvered the time bomb, a green-stained capsule with rusty circular iron bands around the nose, to the top of a bed of sand in the back of a truck. Mr. Binkie wiped the sweat from his forehead and said: 'Let's be sensible about this, m' lads. There isn't enough room in the truck for all of us. And I'm just learning to drive. This is my chance to practice a bit.'

"The men did not look at Mr. Binkie as he stepped into the cab of the truck. But when he was bent over the gear shift, they all tried to sneak into the back, where the dreaded bomb lay on its bed of sand. Most of them made it, before Mr. Binkie started. When he looked back and saw them, one of the men said:

"'Just coming along for the ride, Mr. "Binkie."

"Mr. Binkie winked back at them, then started the car. The awaiting A.R.P. men hastily flung back the ropes to let them go by. The truck was in the clear and away from the crowd, when one of the men in the back who was minutely examining the bomb said:

"Gor-Blimey! I think it's going to blow,

Mr. Binkie.'

"Without hesitation, Mr. Binkie turned into a square block which had been flattened by previous raids. He turned the wheel sharply and stepped heavily on the gas pedal. The truck, groaned with suddenly increased power, swerved crazily, leaped over the curb, and careened across the sidewalk into an empty area, just as the bomb exploded with a deafening detonation.

"Everyone was killed instantly in the gigantic white hot flash. . . everyone, except

for Mr. Binkie.

"At first he had been laid in the hospital ward on the ground floor, just to the left of the morgue, reserved for dying patients. But Mr. Binkie did not die. He refused to die. There is no other explanation for the spark of life that refused to go out. He was finally removed to the front room on the top floor, where he was the sole occupant.

"Nurse Nancy looked at me. 'You should have been here,' she said, 'when I first came on the case. Dr. Towers was on duty. He forgot to mark the chart after examining Mr. Binkie. So I handed it to him. Dr. Towers' voice was angry as he hopelessly flung down

the chart.

"'What do you want me to write? That I

don't know what's keeping him alive?"

"Nurse Nancy smiled. That's the way it's been since Mr. Binkie came here. The doctors get angry because they can't do anything to help him. And they stay mad because he just hangs on, despite the pain."

"Mr. Binkie's lips were moving again. The nurse and I moved closer to him. I bent over, my ear close to his lips, trying to catch what he was saying. All I heard was a feeble something that sounded as if it were coming from the bottom of the deepest well in the world. Something that sounded like:

"'Can't-leave-now. There's-work-to

-be-done'."

The Old Man poked me again, bringing me back from my London reverie to the present with a start.

"Well," he yelled. "Don't sit there like a mummy! Where's the surprise? Where's the angle?" His expression showed the expectation of further enlightenment.

"There isn't any," I said. "This is a true

story."





























A BAND OF PLASTIC RAYOLA AROUND THE BUILDING WOULD CATCH THE RAYS, TRANSMIT THEM, AND SEND THEM BACK INTO THE ORIGINAL LIGHT STREAM!





E-A-R-T-H-- C-A-L-I-N-G ---W-E -- R-E-C-E-I-V-E-D--Y-DU-R C-O-M-M-U-N-I-C-A-T-I-O-N---

SAY HELLO TO MY UNCLE BEN IN BROOKLYN!



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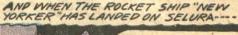














WHAT NEW ADVENTURES WILL BEFALL
ROCKET KELLY AND HIS COMPANIONS,
AS WELL AS THE AMERICAN SCIENTISTS
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WITH EARTH?



BEARING 37 QUADRANGULAR HORNY THAT A SMALL ARTERY RAN FROM THIS FINGER TO PLATES ! THIS PHENOMENON IS UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE IN NATURE



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THE DIAMOND --HARDEST PIECE OF MATTER IN EARTH, 15 80 TIMES TOUGHER THAN ANY OTHER SUBSTANCE ,





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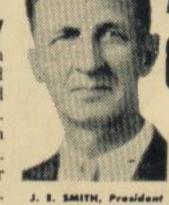
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natural rubber watch given without cost

outdoor

CHEMCRAFT CHEMISTRY

this new Che Magic

CASE

TRAVEL PRETTY

With necklace, matching expansion bracelet. Each locket opens, holds two photographs GOLD-PLATED LOCKET SET



glass rod, strong pistol grip han dle, nylon line, click reel, hooks

20 PIECE FISHING OUTFIT This great outfit includes 4

TRAINING RIFLE DAISY'S DELUXE

loudest play gun. Shoets smoke and noise only armless. Styled like Daisy's famous Air Rifles Harmless Daisy's "Big Bang"